

Message Text

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46

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 AF-10 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

/109 W

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R 290931Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO USCINCEUR

SECSTATE WASHDC 6547

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CNO WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4912

LE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SP

SUBJECT: SHIP VISITS TO GIBRALTAR

REF: MADRID 895

WITH REGARD TO VISIT OF SPRINGFIELD TO GIBRALTAR SEP 4-5 AND OTHER US SHIP VISITS IN NEAR FUTURE, SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT GOS NOW GIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION TO GIBRALTAR ISSUE AND ACTIVELY DEVELOPING NEW TACTICS TO PRESSURE BRITISH. GOS HAS BEEN HIGHLY SENSITIVE IN PAST TO ANY ACTIONS OF CEREMONIAL NATURE GOING BEYOND ROUTINE PRACTICES, WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS US SUPPORT FOR BRITISH COLONIAL CONTROL OF GIBRALTAR. WITH GIBRALTAR ISSUE NOW HEATING UP THIS SENSITIVITY EVEN MORE ACUTE AND WE CAN EXPECT SPANISH TO SCRUTINIZE EVEN MORE METICULOUSLY ACTIONS OF VISITING US UNITS. DURING THIS PERIOD OF TENSION SPECIAL CARE NEEDED TO KEEP OUR POSITION OF NEUTRALITY IN DISPUTE CREDIBLE. THEREFORE, IMPORTANT THAT SIXTH FLEET UNIT COMMANDERS INVOLVED AVOID ANY DEPARTURE IN MAKING PORT CALLS AT GIBRALTAR FROM THE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES WE HAVE ROUTINELY FOLLOWED IN THE PAST AND WHICH

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WE FOLLOW IN VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS. ANY REQUIRED AND CUSTOMARY

CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED WITH THIS IN MIND. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE VISITS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED PRECISELY AS HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY IN THE PAST. THEIR FREQUENCY SHOULD ALSO CONFORM TO PAST EXPERIENCE.

RIVERO

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NNN

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